

### REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

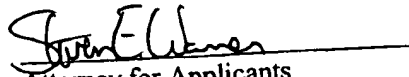
Claims 17-26 are presented for consideration. Claims 17, 20, 21 and 24 are independent. Claims 21 and 24 have been amended to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claims 17-20 were previously allowed in this application. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicant submits that claims 21-26 patentably define features of the scanning exposure apparatus and device manufacturing method of the present invention, such as initializing a position detection unit for the detection of the position of the surface of an object, on the basis of the position of the object being moved by a stage unit. Therefore, claims 21-26 also should be deemed allowable.

Applicants submit, therefore, that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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